Start of Charles Holzer Collection

AR 11716

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 Charles Holzer Collection, ca 2008

Charles Holzer Collection (AHC 2072)

1) Sketch of the plan of the side-camp Fuerstengrube, drawn by Chalres Holzer

2) Police clearance certificate, issued in Harzgerode on 7/4/1947

3) Document stating that CH is a "victim of the fascism"

4) ID for strangers and for people without nationality, issued for the time between 4/25/1947-4/25/1952

5) "Netzkarte", a ticket for the Viennese public transport system

6) "Registrierkarte", a kind of a register certificate, issued on 3/5/1947 in Harzgerode, Germany

7) An ID for CH, issued on 9/11/1946 in Vienna

8) A newspaper article about a Holocaust forum of the Red Cross, with a picture, where CH is in a group of five in the center

9) Picture and description of CH and his sister, "strolling down a street in Vienna prior to the outbreak of WW II"

10) Newspaper article about Charles Holzer, telling about him talking to a graduating class in Emerson and telling his story in that frame

11) Newspaper article, also talking about CH's life and his surviving of the several concentration camps he was in

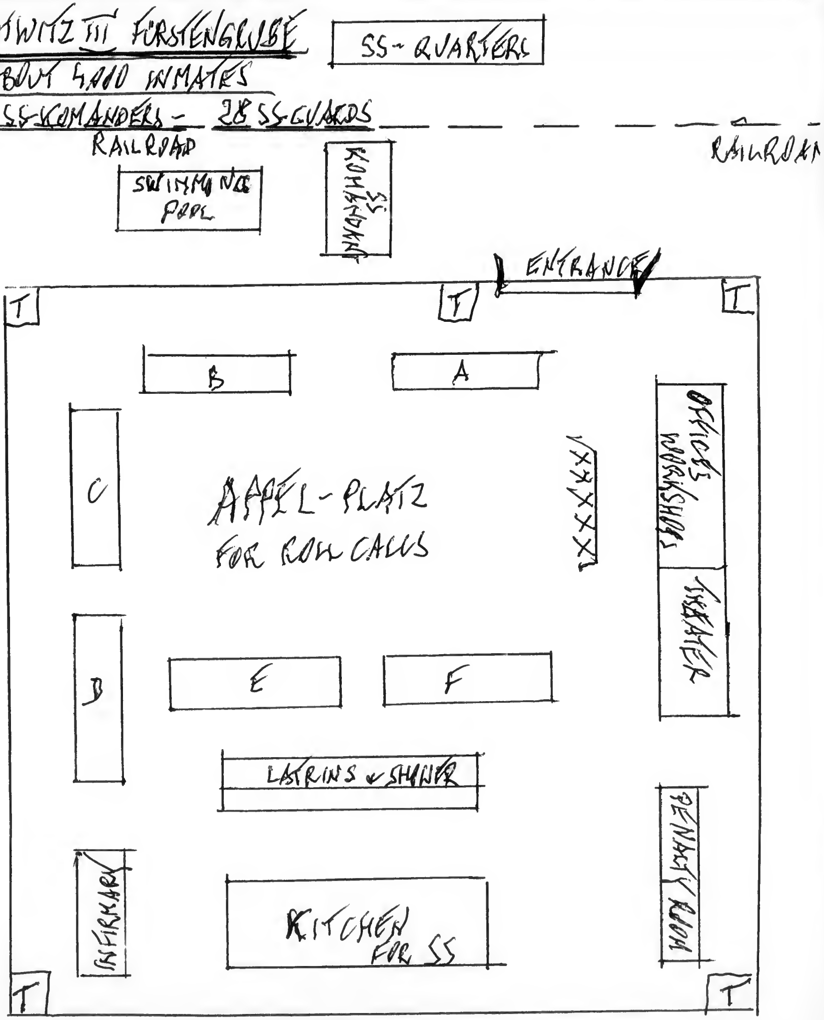
12) Incomplete article about an interview with CH

13) A thank card for CH by Emerson Jr. High School, with a picture of CH and some students

AUSCHWITZ III FÜRSTENGRUBE

ABOUT 4000 INMATES

2 SS-KOMANDERS – 28 SS-GUARDS



T = SS-WATCHTOWER

X = GALLOWS

A – F : BARACKS FOR INMATES (EACH ABOUT 650)

Zur Beachtung!

In polizeilichen Führungszeugnissen werden lediglich Strafen und Entscheidungen und auch diese nur in einem durch Gesetz und Verwaltungsvorschriften bestimmten Umfang vermerkt. Polizeiliche Führungszeugnisse geben kein Urteil über den Leumund oder über das Allgemeinverhalten des Inhabers.

Das Führungszeugnis bezieht sich auf die ganze Zeit, in der der Inhaber im Reichsgebiete — auch außerhalb seines jetzigen Wohnortes — polizeilich gemeldet war.

Alle polizeilichen Führungszeugnisse werden nach dem vom RMdI. durch RdErl. vom 27. 5. 1940 (RMBliV. S. 1039) vorgeschriebenen Einheitsvordruck erteilt.

Polizeiliches Führungszeugnis

(Die Rückseite ist zu beachten)

Herrn — ~~Frau — Fräulein~~ Karl Holzer
(Vor- und Familienname, bei Frauen auch der Geburtsname)

polizeilich gemeldet in Harzgerode, Mägdesprungerstraße 37
(Wohnort, Kreis, Straße und Hausnummer)

geboren am 25.9.1920. in Frankfurt/Main Kreis

wird zum Zwecke der Vorlage bei

Anmerkung: Hält sich der Zeugnisinhaber außerhalb des Reichsgebietes auf, dann ist vor der Zeile „geboren am" einzuschalten: „zuletzt im Inlande bis zum .... wohnhaft gewesen in ...."

KVS Vordruck Nr. 123. Polizeiliches Führungszeugnis.
8. 41. 20000. M/0234

bescheinigt.

Die polizeilichen Listen enthalten keine Strafen [redacted]

Holzer ist ab 2o.11.1945 polizeilich in Harzgerode gemeldet.

Stadt Harzgerode

Harzgerode den 4. 7. 1947

Einwohner-Meldeamt

I. A. [illegible]

Gebühr (im Regelfall 2 RM.)

(Ort, Datum, Polizeibehörde, Unterschrift, Dienstsiegel)

Antifa-Ausschuß
Harzgerode
-.-.-.-.-.-.-.-.-

Harzgerode, den

B e s c h e i n i g u n g.

(Nur gültig zur Vorlage bei der VVN. Landesleitung Halle.)

Von Seiten des Antifa-Ausschusses bestehen gegen Herrn Karl H o l z e r, geboren am 25.9.1920 zu Frankfurt/Main, wohnhaft in Harzgerode, Mägdesprungerstr. 37, in politischer Hinsicht keine Bedenken.

Herr Holzer ist anerkanntes " Opfer des Faschismus ".
Nach seinen Angaben ist er von 1941 - 1945 als politischer Häftling im KZ. inhaftiert gewesen.

Antifa-Ausschuß :

Für die CDU :

SED Antifaausschuß Harzgerode CDU

Für die SED :

Этое временное удостоверение выданно на основании данных самого владельца. Его данные могли быть проверены выдающим учреждением.

Dieser Behelfsausweis ist nach Angaben des / ~~der~~ Ausweisinhaber / ~~in~~ erteilt worden. Seine / ~~ihre~~ Angaben konnten von der ausstellenden Dienststelle nachgeprüft — ~~nicht nachgeprüft~~ werden.

Polizeisekretär

This provisional identity card is based mainly on what the owner says. The autorties could state — not state — the truth.

Паспорт

для иностранцев и лиц без подданства

Kennkarte

für Ausländer und Staatenlose

KZ 141082

Identity-Card

for Strangers and for peoples whithout nationality

(1) C. Dünnhaupt K.G., Lange Gasse.
G-03601 (417) 12. 12. 45 300

№ паспорта
Kenn-Nummer
Number
A 012

Время действительности
Geltungsdauer
Validity
vom: 25. April 1947
bis: 25. April 1952

Фамилия
Name
name
Holzer

Имия
Vorname
Christian name
Karl

Родился в
Geboren am
born on
15. September 1920

в
in
in
Frankfurt a./M.

Бывшое
подданство у безподаного
Staatsangehörigkeit
(Bei Staatenlosen frühere)
Nationality
österreichisch

Местожительство
Wohnort
Resident
Harzgerode, Mägdesprunger

№ улица
Str. Nr.
Street-Nr.
37

Сбор:
Gebühr: 3.--
Charge:

прав. палец
Finger rechts
finger-print
rihgt

лев. палец
Finger links
finger-print
left



Подпись владельца
Unterschrift des Inhabers
Signature
Karl Holzer

Балленштедт
Ballenstedt, den 25. April 1947

Ballenstedt

Печать
Dienstsiegel

Рост
Gestalt
Figur
mittel

Лицо
Gesicht
face
oval

Цвет волос
Haarfarbe
hair
braun

Цвет глаза
Augenfarbe
eyes
blau

Особые знаки
Besondere Kennzeichen
special marks
keine

Ландрат района Балленштедт
Der Landrat
des Kreises Ballenstedt
The Landrat
in Ballenstedt

Отдел о иностранцев
Ausländeramt
Board of Strangers
I. A.

Wiener Verkehrsbetriebe

Netzkarte

Gültig an allen Tagen im Tarifgebiet I und II auf sämtlichen Linien der Straßen- und Stadtbahn.

für
Herrn
Frau
Fräulein

Wohnung:

Unterschrift des Netzkarteninhabers:

[illegible]

Auszug aus den Fahrpreisbestimmungen:

Nicht übertragbar. — Den Bahnangestellten unaufgefordert und offen vorzuweisen sowie auf Verlangen zur Überprüfung zu übergeben. — Unstatthafter Gebrauch zieht die Abnahme der Karte, und unter Umständen strafrechtliche Verfolgung nach sich.

3

1948

Wiener Verkehrsbetriebe

Netzkarte

2. März
bis
1. April
1948

10276 S 56.-

Netzkarte
Nr. 30747



III

Feb. 1947

Registrier-Nr. 1291

Registrierkarte

Zweitschrift

Stadt Harzgerode Gebühr 1,00 RM 06993

Stadt Harzgerode Gebühr 1,00 RM 06992

1208/41. 5. 46. 400 000.
Formular-Verlag E. Morgner, Halle (Saale).

Регитрацию прошел „ “ 5.3.1947г. в .... полицейском участке

Registrierung am 5.3.1947 ~~1946~~ .... Polizeirevier

1. Name Holzer Vorname Karl
2. Geburtsdatum 25.9.1920 Geburtsort Frankfurt a.M.
3. Beruf oder Dienststellung Kulturleiter
4. Ständige Anschrift Harzgerode, Mägdesprungerstr. 37

Unterschrift des Inhabers Karl Holzer
Vor- und Zuname

Abdruck des rechten Zeigefingers

(Dienststempel)

Der Rat der Stadt Harzgerode
Ortspolizeibehörde
I.A.
Hagemann

St. Dr Lager-Nr. 206. …nische Staatsdruckerei, Verlag. (St.) 3933 46

POLIZEIDIREKTION WIEN
…-Polizeikommissariat Favoriten

Nr. F 47.156/46

Nur im Inland gültig
Valid only in Austria
Valable en Autriche seulement
Действительно только внутри страны

IDENTITÄTSAUSWEIS
IDENTITY CARD
CARTE D'IDENTITÉ
Удостоверение личности

T 4f. 190/46



Vor- und Zuname: Holzer Karl

Ort und Tag der Geburt: 15.September 19[illegible]

Frankfurt a. Main

Staatsbürgerschaft: Österreich

Stand (ledig, verh., gesch., verw.): ledig

Beruf: Filmtechniker

Wohnort: [illegible]., Fuchsbaumgasse 53/19

Körpergröße: 168 cm

Gesicht: oval

Farbe der Augen: blau

Farbe der Haare: braun

Besondere Kennzeichen: keine

Karl Holzer

Unterschrift des Inhabers
Signature of the bearer
Signature du porteur
Подпись владельца

POLIZEIDIREKTION WIEN

Rundstampiglie der Ausstellungsbehörde

Wien, den 11.Sept. 1946
Ort und Datum der Ausstellung

Unterschrift des ausfertigenden Beamten

Red Cross holds Holocaust forum



Pictured from left are Herbert Kolb of Paramus; Ed Pavlick an American Red Cross emergency services volunteer; Charles Holzer of Emerson; Justin Ecochard, a Red Cross volunteer for International Social Services; and Mona Bookman, director of emergency services for the American Red Cross. Kolb and Holzer are Holocaust survivors.

The American Red Cross held a Holocaust tracing forum, where clients spoke of their wartime experiences and subsequent search for friends and relatives. The Red Cross' Holocaust and World War II tracing program provides tracing services to help find loved ones missing since World War II and its aftermath. All services are confidential and free.



Lillian and Charles Holzer stroll down a street in Vienna prior to the outbreak of World War II. The Holzer family was relocated to Prague by the Germans in 1939.

Survivor tells concentration camp experience

BY KEVIN GLYNN
Of Community Life

Ask Charles Holzer how he survived imprisonment during the Holocaust, and he will say - luck, will power, energy, hope of survival, and strong faith. "The most important thing is luck."

Holzer recently spoke in front of the Emerson High School graduating class as part of a seminar that the seniors participate in after finals. Principal Israel Bordainick felt this program complemented the other activities the seniors participated in, which included visiting the Jewish Museum and Ground Zero in New York City.

"Survivors are dying every day," Bordainick said, "so to have the opportunity to hear and ask questions first hand...There are so many questions you can ask, and someday, that will be gone. Survivors feel an obligation to make sure the true story is told and to make sure that it will never be forgotten."

'The most important thing is luck.'

Charles Holzer on surviving the Holocaust

How it began

In 1936, just after his youth soccer team won the bronze medal in competition against 22 other countries, Holzer began to consider what he would do with his life - a life that was just beginning. But events of that year, a year that saw the world move inexorably toward war, eliminated one possibility after another.

In 1938, with his parents and 14 year old sister Lilly, Holzer, 18, left his home in Vienna to join relatives who had already fled to America. Holzer explained that American immigration laws were very strict at the time, and said that they were given "promise visas" and put on a waiting list. In order to leave for America, the family had to be in an unoccupied country. So in May, they traveled to Prague, Czechoslovakia, where they could only hope to advance quickly through the list.

His family, however, would never make it to America, and it would take Holzer 12 years to complete the journey. Czechoslovakia, Holzer explained, was occupied in March of 1939. In September 1940, he and his family, along with 1,200 others, were boarded onto a train. They were told they were being taken to a place from which they could travel to America.

After three days, they arrived in the ghetto of Lodz, Poland. With 40,000 others from all over Europe already in the city, Holzer said they realized it was doubtful they would ever make it to America. "Every so often," he said, "they took some people out and sent them to work." In November of that year, Holzer was separated from his family and sent to Auschwitz. Instead of starting a new life in America with his family as he had hoped, Holzer was beginning a journey of terror.

When he arrived in Auschwitz, his head was shaved and his left arm tattooed with an identification number. His clothes were exchanged for a gray and white striped uniform. All of the uniforms had different triangles on them to further identify the prisoners. Holzer was given a yellow triangle to identify him as Jewish. A red triangle was given to criminals, mostly Germans. A green triangle was for homosexuals, a black triangle for gypsies, and a purple triangle for priests and bishops.

Holzer was put in a barrack with 800 to 900 people in bunk beds. They were given coffee in the morning and bread and potato-peel soup for dinner. Every three weeks, their uniforms were washed and they were allowed to bathe.

After a short time he was sorted out again with 175 other men and sent to Furstentrule where they were chosen by miners to work in different sections of a coal mine. Holzer said they worked a shift in the mine from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. At 8 a.m., they reported back to camp to build barracks and a pool for the commander. On average, the prisoners received four or five hours of sleep a day. Holzer said, "For me, it was a little easier."

For six months, the miner who selected him and two other inmates brought them food and allowed them to rest in the mine while the miner worked for them.

"Food was the most important thing," Holzer said. "People who were not able to work were sent to the gas chamber. If someone collapsed from fatigue, they were shot." He explained that they would eat anything they could find, including dead birds and food that the officers dumped into the latrines.

Another instance of luck that he shared involved a random execution conducted by the commander. The commander was a 24-year-

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PHOTOS BY MICHAEL BOCCHIERI

Above, Charles Holzer shows the students at Emerson High School the uniform that was issued to prisoners during the Holocaust. The different colored triangles designated what prisoners were being detained for. Holzer switched his jacket that had a yellow triangle for one with a red triangle to save his life.

Left, Holzer wears the cap that was issued to him with his uniform as he addresses the class.

... Holzer said. "He told us ... up and counted us off, ...elling every tenth person to step forward. He shot every tenth person with a machine gun. I was number nine."

Holzer said the commanders of different camps were competing with one another. "Everybody thinks that the officers were ordered to do things. They were not ordered." He said they would share instances of brutality, and that his commander would brag about the pool that he made the inmates build.

Yet another instance of luck came when he failed to escape. A group was taken outside of the camp to do some work. Holzer and two of his friends decided they would try to run away through the bushes when the officers turned their backs. His two friends escaped unnoticed, but an officer saw Holzer and ordered him to get back to work.

Later on, his friends were discovered missing, caught, and hung. Inmates were forced to march past them as they dangled. When Holzer turned his head, unable to watch his friends as they died, he was hit above the left eye by the butt of a Nazi's rifle - a blow that left him partially blind.

In 1944, Holzer said he was sick with Typhus for four or five days. He explained that he was afraid to tell anyone or go to the hospital because the Nazis would have killed him. "During role call, somebody next to me would have to hold me up so I didn't collapse," he said.

Allies approach

On January 25, 1945, on a trip that lasted five days, Holzer and the other 4,000 people in his camp were transported in a cattle train as Russian forces began to approach the camps. "They tried to get us away so there wouldn't be any evidence of what they did to us." The Nazis crammed 800 into a car, which forced the prisoners to make the trip standing up. They did not have anything to eat or drink, except for some snow, and only half of them survived the trip. "Once in a while, they stopped the trains, looked for dead bodies, and threw them out," Holzer said.

Those who survived were taken to the Dora concentration camp in Nordhausen and put to work. The inmates did not know what they were making at the time, but later found out that they were assembling missiles. As rumors began to spread and they discovered what they were building, Holzer said he and the other inmates tried to sabotage the missiles, leaving out screws and other parts as they built them. The missiles were later put on trains, which were marked with a Red Cross symbol on the top to conceal the contents. Holzer said the British knew about the plan and bombed the trains, destroying the missiles.

The Nazis had successfully moved the prisoners away from the Russians, but now the Americans were approaching the camp. Holzer said the atmosphere was becoming frantic. He still wore the jacket with the yellow triangle that

The Record
SECTION L
LOCAL
SUNDAY, AUGUST [illegible] 2004

KINDERKAMACK O
River Edge residents oppose r
LODI TAXPAYERS
Revaluation leaves homeowne
EDUCATION L-5 DEATH NOTICE

"There was no way to resist, the soldiers were there with machine guns. In a situation like that, you don't have emotion. You don't have anything. You are just thinking, 'How am I going to survive.' "
CHARLES HOLZER, CONCENTRATION CAMP SURVIVOR

No. 141082 weighed 86 pounds

Emerson man reflects on Holocaust

By CATHERINE HOLAHAN
STAFF WRITER

EMERSON – News of the planned assassination of Adolf Hitler crackled softly from the radio.

Some political prisoners had smuggled the radio into the concentration camp, and Charles Holzer knew he and the other Jewish prisoners would be killed if anyone found them listening.

But he was starving. He was being tortured. The increased risk of death was worth it for a moment of hope.

"A voice from England said they were trying to kill Hitler," Holzer, now 84, remembered. "We were hoping something would happen and the next day we found out."

The assassination attempt on July 20, 1944, failed. In a stroke of luck for the Nazi leader, an officer moved the briefcase – in which German aristocrat Claus von Stauffenberg had planted a bomb – away from Hitler before it exploded.

Many believe that failed assassination attempt 60 years ago extended the war and led to the deaths of millions more Jewish prisoners, Russian soldiers, Germans, and Allied servicemen.

Holzer survived. Now living in Emerson, he told his story at nine Bergen County high schools this year to encourage young people to reflect on the tragedies of the Holocaust and the failed attempt on Hitler's life.

By the time of the assassination attempt, Holzer had spent more than three years in concentration camps.

Born in Germany, Holzer grew up in Austria with his mother, father, and younger sister. Hitler took over Austria in March 1938. His father's shoe store was immediately taken away by the Nazis. His family was forced to clean streets and scrub monuments while neighbors pointed and laughed.

"It was very depressing," said Holzer, who was 18 when the Nazis took over

See HOLOCAUST Page L-4

Holocaust

From Page L-1

Austria. "Suddenly I was pointed out as not belonging. I wasn't one of them; I was Jewish."

Holzer had a rich uncle who escaped to America. He arranged for Holzer's family to emigrate. The family took a train to Prague, Czechoslovakia, in October 1938, hoping to travel from the non-German controlled nation to the United States.

But they never made it. The American government kept them on a waiting list and the Nazis soon were marching into Prague.The Nazis put thousands of families waiting for American visas on passenger trains, supposedly destined for a port where ships would take them to the United States.

"We were eating, we were singing, we had a nice time," said Holzer "We were just thinking let's get out of here."

They were taken to a ghetto in Poland. Holzer volunteered to go to a work site with other young men in hope that he could help his family once outside the ghetto walls. He was taken to a work camp. By October 1941, he was on a train to Auschwitz.

"There was no way to resist, the soldiers were there with machine guns," said Holzer. "In a situation like that, you don't have emotion. You don't have anything. You are just thinking, 'How am I going to survive.' "

Holzer's identity was erased. All the legal papers proving who he was had been confiscated. In Auschwitz, his left forearm was indelibly blackened with the number 141082. For the next several years, his life would be marked by a series of numbers: 141082, his identification number; 86, the number of pounds he weighed by the time he escaped the Nazis; and nine, the number that saved his life.

Because he was No. 9, and not No. 10, he didn't die the day the SS commander killed every 10th person in retaliation for a missing prisoner.

"People ask me, 'How did you survive the Holocaust?' " Holzer said. "I say the most important thing was to be lucky."

Luck kept Holzer from getting sick, he said. The day after Hitler's assassination attempt the SS commander emptied the hospital beds and sent the sick to the gas chambers in retaliation.

Luck enabled Holzer to meet a Catholic coal miner who disagreed with the Nazis treatment of the Jews. The man brought him food and allowed him to rest during his work duty in the mines.

Luck helped him pick up the coat of a dead political prisoner during the winter, which kept him from being identified as a Jew as the Nazis began executing everyone in the concentration camps. In the garb of a political prisoner, he was taken by the Nazis to mountains in Germany where they were overtaken by the Allied forces.

His family was not so lucky. He learned later his father died of a heart attack in the ghetto His mother and sister died in the gas chambers



DON SMITH/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Charles Holzer, 84, of Emerson recalls how he picked up the coat of a dead political prisoner during winter in the concentration camp, helping to mask his identity as the Nazis killed Jews

E-mail: holahan@northjersey.com

THE LAST WORD

A REAL 'SURVIVOR'

AN INTERVIEW WITH HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR CHARLES HOLZER

BY KEVIN GLYNN

EMERSON RESIDENT Charles Holzer, 86, gets around with the assistance of a walker. He's probably 5'9", but stands and sits somewhat hunched over, appearing several inches shorter. He and his family left Vienna, Austria in 1938 for America to try to escape Nazi rule, but wound up in concentration camps. His parents and 16-year-old sister, Lilly, did not survive, and Holzer did not make it to America for 12 more years. Today, he speaks to high school and college students every year, telling them his incredible story of survival.

Why do you continue telling your story about the Holocaust to students year after year?

I do it because I think it's my duty to do it. I belong to the Steven Spielberg Foundation [University of Southern California Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History and Education]. Our aim is to inform the younger generation what really happened. Young people read, they see movies, they watch television, but if they hear actual stories from a survivor, it's different.

What do you hope the students will take away from it?

According to the letters they write me they are so pleased to be informed. A lot of students are interested in learning about the Holocaust, and hopefully, they'll remember and tell it to future generations.

You wouldn't believe the questions I get. There are some people who



AEL BOCCHIERI

"When I talk to you and I tell you what happened, sometimes I don't believe it myself."

Look at me - do I look like I was a coal miner? Mining for 10 hours a day? Would you believe that I built a wall, carrying bricks back and forth from a truck for eight hours a day? I don't believe I did all those things.

How does the Holocaust impact your life today? How do you think your life would be different had you not been sent to the concentration camps?

For the first 15 to 20 years after, I couldn't talk about it. It was too depressing. I had nightmares about it. Now I like to tell the stories to other people, not just students, but to anyone who wants to hear about it.

How would my life be different? Well, physically I might not be in the condition I am now. I suffered spine damage and nerve damage. That was a result of things that happened to me in the concentration camps.

Are you happy with how your life

happy I was able to come here to America and make a good life. The only thing is that I came a little late [12 years too late]. I have two sons in the area and three grand children. I like spending time with them.

You were a pretty accomplished soccer player before the war. Do you think back on that often?

Yes, I was a very good soccer player. In Europe we had something call the Youth Olympics for 22 countries. And Austria, we won second prize. We won the silver medal.

I love watching soccer. I watch it whenever it's on. I'll watch it on the Spanish station even if I can't understand what they're saying.

When you think back on what you've been through and how things could have turned out, what are you most grateful for?

My life in America. I'm grateful for that. I traveled a lot on vacation with my wife. I've been to every country in Europe and people don't understand how lucky we are here in America.

I came here with $2 in my pocket. Now I have a house. I have a car. I have everything I need. You have to work hard and you have to be lucky, but there's no country like the United States.

How do you spend most of your time these days?

Breakfast. Lunch. And dinner. I eat too much these days. The medication I'm on has the side effect of making me hungry. I read a lot. I get a lot of magazines. I smoke pipes, I eat chocolate and I don't worry about

Charles Holzer

Your personal story about being a Holocaust survivor will forever remain in the minds of the students at Emerson Jr. Sr. High School.

"What is done
cannot be undone,
but one can prevent it
from happening again."
~Anne Frank 1944



End of Charles Holzer Collection